

Date

Cassandra Billiot
68463 Abney Drive
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-224

Dear Ms. Billiot:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its June 4, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether your potential employment with a non-profit organization would be a violation of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.

FACTS PROVIDED

You are currently employed full-time by the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office as a Forensic Nurse Examiner. In that role, you perform sexual assault exams at hospitals in St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Helena and Livingston Parishes.

You have been offered a part-time employment opportunity with The Haven, a non-profit group that assists survivors of sexual assault. Your expected job responsibilities would be to assist and train nurses and develop policies and procedures for the program. You would not be performing any exams in connection with your potential employment by The Haven.

LAWS

La. R.S. 42:1111A prohibits a public employee from receiving anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a) prohibits a public servant from receiving any thing of economic value for any service, the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the agency of the public servant and in which the public servant has participated.

La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) provides that no public servant and no legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent, shall receive any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public service unless such services are: (d) Neither performed for nor compensated by any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.

ANALYSIS

To the extent your duties with The Haven would be unrelated to your duties as an employee of the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, there would be no violation of La. R.S. 42:1111A or La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a). Also, to the extent that The Haven is not seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, there would be no violation of La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d).

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would permit you to be employed by The Haven to provide the above-referenced duties, as long as The Haven is not seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Charles E. Reeves, Jr.
For the Board

No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.

DISCLAIMER

This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.